

Opportunity to Partner with Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge System to submit competitive proposals for funds available through the Joint Fire Science Program.

Posted date: Sept 25, 2006

Original Due Date for Applications: Nov 1, 2006

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) will establish a firm deadline for submitted proposals when the proposal announcements are released on October 13th, 2006. On October 13th, 2006, it is imperative that interested parties check the JFSP website <http://jfsp.nifc.gov/> to ensure that your proposal idea is compatible with one of the eligible announcement categories and its requirements. Discussions as to the competitiveness and viability of your organization's proposal ideas necessitates that you contact Region 7 no later than November 1st, 2006. This will allow sufficient time for further development and refinement of our scientific proposal into a partnership package suitable for submission to the Joint Fire Science Program. Applicants should expect the proposal deadline to occur in mid-December, 2006 for receipt by the Joint Fire Science board in Boise, Idaho.

Explanation of "other" category of funding activity:

This notice is an opportunity for interested parties to discuss their proposal ideas which may lead to potential partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Region 7 – Alaska). This is not a commitment of funds by Region 7 as any resultant awards will come from the Joint Fire Science Program through Region 7 to your organization. Discussions and development of proposals ideas with the Service does not constitute federal endorsement of your organization or methodology. Neither will costs incurred during proposal development be reimbursed in the event your project is not among those selected for funding by the Joint Fire Science Program. Discussions and partnerships will only be entertained if there is definitive relevance to the National Wildlife Refuge System in Alaska.

Description:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7 is seeking potential scientific partners to submit a proposal to the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP). "The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) was established in 1998 to provide scientific information and support for wildland fuel and fire management programs. The program is a partnership of six federal agencies; the Forest Service in the Agriculture Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey, all in the Department of the Interior. All JFSP projects require scientist-manager partnerships along with strong emphasis on transferring research findings to the field. Guidance for the program includes four purposes all related to wildland fuels: Fuels inventory and mapping, Evaluation of fuels treatments, Scheduling of fuels treatments and Development of protocols for monitoring and evaluation. In 2001, Congress further directed JFSP to expand its research efforts in post-fire rehabilitation and stabilization, local assistance, and aircraft-based remote sensing. JFSP research also examines air quality, smoke management and social aspects

of fire and fuels management. In setting priorities for funding, the program responds to congressional direction, recommendations from advisory committees and member agencies along with collective input from key agency personnel, workshops and informational meetings. The program focus is on short-term, applied research that provides information and tools to specialists and managers, helping them make the best possible decisions and develop sound, scientifically valid plans. The JFSP encourages proposals from all interested parties. However, because the focus of the JFSP is on wildland fire and fuels issues on Federal wildlands, evidence of direct involvement by Federal scientists or land managers in the development of the proposals must be included in the proposals. Proposals that do not have evidence of direct involvement by Federal scientists or land managers will not be considered for funding. Examples of documented involvement by land managers or scientists include participation as a Principal Investigator, cooperator, or collaborator; letters of commitment and support; written evidence from the manager that the proposal is responding to an urgent fire or fuels problem related to the land manager's unit."

Interested and capable parties with scientific proposal ideas for the undertaking of studies in Alaska who can demonstrate relevance to both the JFSP's Announcement for Proposals (AFPs) and to Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge System are encouraged to contact us to discuss a possible partnership. There is no Region 7 specific solicitation packet, nor is there a "bidder's list" to get on. This is an opportunity for you to come to us with competitive ideas that fit within the programmatic description (see <http://jfsp.nifc.gov/>). A "twin" posting of this announcement # 701817R002 is posted to both Grants.gov and FedBizOpps.gov as any resultant awards may occur, as legally appropriate, through either Procurement Instruments or Financial Assistance Awards (Cooperative Agreements or fund transfers within existing CESU Agreements). Interested parties must contact Karen Murphy, Regional Fire Ecologist, or Mary Kwart, Regional Fuels Specialist, at 1011 E. Tudor Rd, MS 221, Anchorage, AK 99503. Phone Karen at 907-786-3501 or Mary at 907-786-3985; Fax 907-786-3905; E-mail Karen_A_Murphy@fws.gov or Mary_Kwart@fws.gov to discuss competitive ideas no later than November 1, 2006.